

Will the broadcast flag interfere with consumers ability to make copies of DTV content for their personal use, either on personal video recorders or removable media?

The "broadcast flag" technology could be used by either the broadcast media or government to prevent the distribution of programming that either the broadcasters or the government did not like. It would be equivalent to requiring a license to print. This technology is makes it too easy for one group to control distribution of digital media.

Would the digital flag interfere with consumers ability to send DTV content across networks, such as home digital networks connecting digital set top boxes, digital recorders, digital servers and digital display devices? The "digital flag" could be involked at any level by the broadcast industry. Our constitution limits the government's right to control the media -- we should not surrender this power to a private entity, no matter what the justification.

Would the broadcast flag requirement limit consumers ability to use their existing electronic equipment (equipment not built to look for the flag) or make it difficult to use older components with new equipment that is compliant with the broadcast flag standard?

As stated above, ANY system that gives control of my or your equipment to an external entity should be considered a violation of the Bill of Rights. In the case of non-broadcast media generated programming how can such a system be turned off? Not only for the inital developer, but also for all future potential viewers? This system would become a method of controlling the distribution of ALL programing by a select few that have the proper equipmment.